

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR KS US

SUBJECT: CONGRESSMAN MURPHY'S CALLS ON PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER

1. REP JOHN M. MURPHY (D-NY), VISITED SEOUL FEB 14-18
AT INVITATION OF KOREAN VETERANS ASSOCIATION TO ATTEND
CEREMONIES MARKING 500TH DAY OF SERVICE BY US SECOND
DIVISION IN KOREA. CONGRESSMAN WAS APPARENTLY AMENABLE
TO KOREAN SUGGESTION THAT HE ASSIST IN DEVVELOPING
EXCHANGES BETWEEN NEWLY-FORMED ASSOCIATION FOR KOREAN
WAR VETERANS IN ROK NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND COUNTERPART
GROUP IN US SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.
KOREANS OBVIOUSLY HOPEFUL THAT SUCH EXCHANGES WILL
IMPROVE NEGATIVE FEELINGS IN CONGRESS TOWARD ROKG AND
ITS POLICIES.

2. REP MURPHY CALLED ON PRESIDENT PARK AND PRIME
MINISTER KIM CHONG-PIL FEB 17. CALL ON PRESIDENT WAS
NOTEWORTHY LARGELY FOR PRESIDENT'S OPEN CONCERN
OVER HIS NEGATIVE IMAGE IN US AND PROSPECTS FOR
RETENTION OF US FORCES IN KOREA, AND FOR HIS OMISSION
OF ANY REFERENCE TO US MILITARY AID PROGRAMS.
PRESIDENT EXPRESSED IRRITATION WITH CONGRESSMEN AND
JOURNALISTS WHO, HE SAID, BASE THEIR OPINIONS ONLY
ON HEAR-SAY EVIDENCE, CRITICIZE INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS
IN ROK, AND FAIL TO RECOGNIZE THREAT TO INTERNATIONAL
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STABILITY POSED BY NORTH KOREAN HOSTILITY. HE PRAISED
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE SCHLESINGER'S STATEMENT TO CONGRESS

DEFENDING RETENTION OF US FORCES IN KOREA AS NECESSARY TO DETER NORTH KOREANS AND TO ENSURE STABILITY IN EAST ASIA. HE ASSURED REP MURPHY THAT HE WOULD MEET ANY CONGRESSMAN WHO CAME TO INVESTIGATE TRUE FACTS OF KOREAN SITUATION.

3. REP MURPHY, AVOIDING QUERY AS TO WHAT ACTION NEW CONGRESS MIGHT TAKE ON ISSUE OF US TROOP PRESENCE, STATED THAT TEST OF NEW CONGRESS'S ATTITUDE TOWARD US COMMITMENTS OVERSEAS WOULD COME IN DEBATE ON SUPPLEMENTAL AID FOR GVN. PRESIDENT RESPONDED WITH SOME HEAT THAT ONE CANNOT NEGOTIATE WITH COMMUNISTS FROM A POSITION OF WEAKNESS; KOREANS HAD LONG AGO LEARNED THAT COMMUNISTS COME TO NEGOTIATING TABLE ONLY WHEN CONVINCED THEY CANNOT WIN BY FORCE. THE NORTH VIETNAMESE WILL NOT OBSERVE CEASEFIRE NEGOTIATED IN MEANINGFUL WAY SO LONG AS THEY HAVE ANY REASON TO BELIEVE THEIR MILITARY EFFORT WILL PREVAIL.

4. PRESIDENT SAID NORTH KOREANS REGARD PRESENCE OF US FORCES IN KOREA AS GREATEST OBSTACLE TO FORCEFUL TAKEOVER OF ROK. WERE US TO WITHDRAW ITS FORCES, HOWEVER, NORTH KOREANS MIGHT THINK THEY COULD CONQUER SOUTH. THAT IS WHY THEY HAVE BEEN CONCENTRATING ON FORCING US TO WITHDRAW ITS TROOPS. IN THIS SITUATION, ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE OF ROKG MUST BE TO UPGRADE ITS OWN FORCES TO POINT WHERE THEY CAN RESIST ATTACK WITHOUT US ASSISTANCE. THIS REQUIRES NOT ONLY MILITARY POWER BUT DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL ECONOMY. PRESIDENT SAID

HIS OUTLOOK SUMMARIZED BY MOTTO IN HIS OWN CALLIGRAPHY HANGING ON WALL, WHICH HE TRANSLATED AS "HE WHO IS STRONG HAS NO FEAR." REP MURPHY SAID HE AGREED WITH BOTH PRESIDENT'S PHILOSOPHY AND NEED FOR US TROOP PRESENCE HERE AND WOULD SO REPORT TO HIS COLLEAGUES.

5. REP MURPHY'S CALL ON PRIMIN WAS DEVOTED LARGELY TO REMINISCENCES ABOUT THEIR PREVIOUS MEETINGS AND TO STANDARD BRIEFING BY PRIME
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MINISTER ON KOREAN ECONOMIC SITUATION AND EFFORTS ROKG NOW MAKING OVERCOME ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES. IN DISCUSSION RESULTS OF REFERENDUM, WHICH THE PRIMIN VIEWED AS ENTIRELY SATISFACTORY FROM ROKG POINT OF VIEW, DCM ASKED PRIMIN FOR INTERPRETATION OF REMARK IN PRESIDENT PARK'S PAST-REFERENDUM STATEMENT CONCERNING DEVELOPMENT OF SUPRA-PARTISAN OR PAN-NATIONAL POLITICAL SYSTEM. PRIMIN RESPONDED THAT IN RETROSPECT, CHOICE OF WORDING TO DESCRIBE WHAT PRESIDENT MEANT HAD BEEN POOR. WORDING HAD LED MANY TO EXPECT THAT PRESIDENT WOULD

ATTEMPT TO DEVELOP NEW MASS POLITICAL MOVEMENT OR WOULD
TRY TO BRING NONPOLITICAL OR PERHAPS EVEN OPPOSITION
FIGURES INTO CABINET. ON CONTRARY, PRESIDENT HAD NO
SUCH SPECIFIC DEVELOPMENTS IN MIND. HE HAD MERELY
MEANT TO CALL ON POPULATION TO UNITE BEHIND GOVERNMENT
IN SPIRIT OF COHESION AND NATIONAL CONSENSUS NOW THAT
REFERENDUM HAD SO CLEARLY SHOWN THAT GREAT MAJORITY
SUPPORTED PRESIDENT'S POLICIES.
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